



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610

(609) 393-1234 website: <http://saintvladimir.org/>

Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross & Martyr Sophia and her three daughters (Faith, Hope, and Love) at Rome September 17, 2017

Troparion – Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.// O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Troparion – Tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross,// preserve Thy habitation!

Troparion – Tone 5

Thou didst blossom in the courts of the Lord as a fruitful olive tree, holy martyr Sophia; in thy contest thou didst offer to Christ the sweet fruit of thy womb, thy daughters Faith, Hope, and Love.// Together with them intercede for us all!

Kontakion – Tone 6

When Christ God the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race.// He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Kontakion – Tone 1

The holy branches of noble Sophia, Faith, Hope, and Love, confounded Greek sophistry through Grace. They struggled and won the victory and have been granted an incorruptible crown by Christ the Master of all.

Kontakion – Tone 4

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by thy pow'r, granting them victories over their adversaries// by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

Prokeimenon – Tone 7

Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy!

v: The Lord reigns, let the people tremble!

Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross

From September 15 until the Leavetaking, we sing "O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. O Son of God crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia" at weekday Liturgies following the Little Entrance.

Martyr Sophia and her three daughters (Faith, Hope, and Love) at Rome

The Holy Martyrs Saint Sophia and her Daughters Faith, Hope and Love were born in Italy. Their mother was a pious Christian widow who named her daughters for the three Christian virtues. Faith was twelve, Hope was ten, and Love was nine. Saint Sophia raised them in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Saint Sophia and her daughters did not hide their faith in Christ, but openly confessed it before everyone.

An official named Antiochus denounced them to the emperor Hadrian (117-138), who ordered that they be brought to Rome. Realizing that they would be taken before the emperor, the holy virgins prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ, asking that He give them the strength not to fear torture and death. When the holy virgins and their mother came before the emperor, everyone present was amazed at their composure. They looked as though they had been brought to some happy festival, rather than to torture. Summoning each of the sisters in turn, Hadrian urged them to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. The young girls remained unyielding.

Then the emperor ordered them to be tortured. They burned the holy virgins over an iron grating, then threw them into a red-hot oven, and finally into a cauldron with boiling tar, but the Lord preserved them.

The youngest child, Love, was tied to a wheel and they beat her with rods until her body was covered all over with bloody welts. After undergoing unspeakable torments, the holy virgins glorified their Heavenly Bridegroom and remained steadfast in the Faith.

They subjected Saint Sophia to another grievous torture: the mother was forced to watch the suffering of her daughters. She displayed adamant courage, and urged her daughters to endure their torments for the sake of the Heavenly Bridegroom. All three maidens were beheaded, and joyfully bent their necks beneath the sword.

In order to intensify Saint Sophia's inner suffering, the emperor permitted her to take the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and loaded them on a wagon. She drove beyond the city limits and reverently buried them on a high hill. Saint Sophia sat there by the graves of her daughters for three days, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Even though she did not suffer for Christ in the flesh, she was not deprived of a martyr's crown. Instead, she suffered in her heart. Believers buried her body there beside her daughters.

The relics of the holy martyrs have rested at El'zasa, in the church of Esho since the year 777.

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool'? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Service Schedule for the week of September 17

Today – 9:00 AM Church School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Saturday September 23 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday September 24 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Weekly Giving

September 10 – 41 adults , 16 youth , \$1,670

Parish Announcements

Catechumen/Orthodoxy classes are held every other Saturday unless otherwise announced. The next class will be held in the church on Saturday September 23 at 3:30 PM. Everyone is invited to the class, but all Catechumens are required to attend.

The annual Parish Picnic will be held next Sunday September 24 at the church picnic grounds on Rt. 33 (near the Acme and behind Brothers Pizza) in Hamilton at approx 1:30 PM. Approx. 70 adults and 22 children have signed up to attend! The grounds and pavilion will be cleaned on Saturday starting at 9:00 AM. If you can help, please bring cleaning products with you.

Pierogies are being sold today in Daria Hall during Coffee Hour. All proceeds benefit the church. Thank you to Nadja Nowicki and all who helped prepare, assemble, and cook the pierogies!

Remember you are able to purchase Iconostasis and Altar candles - please see Ludwig at the candle desk.

On Saturday October 21 at 10:00 AM, Natasha Shynkarenko and Caryl Peck's new baby daughter – Katia – will be baptized, and their daughter – Oksana - will be Chrismated in the Orthodox faith. All are invited to the church services.

Collection baskets are in the back of the church for donations to Gabriele's (Martha Lutz's caretaker) son and his family who lost everything in Hurricane Harvey in Texas, and also for the Diocesan appeal for donations for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. Please be generous.

Future church fundraisers:

Turkey Social – Sunday November 12

Christmas Bake Sale – Saturday December 16

More information will be forthcoming in the next several weeks.